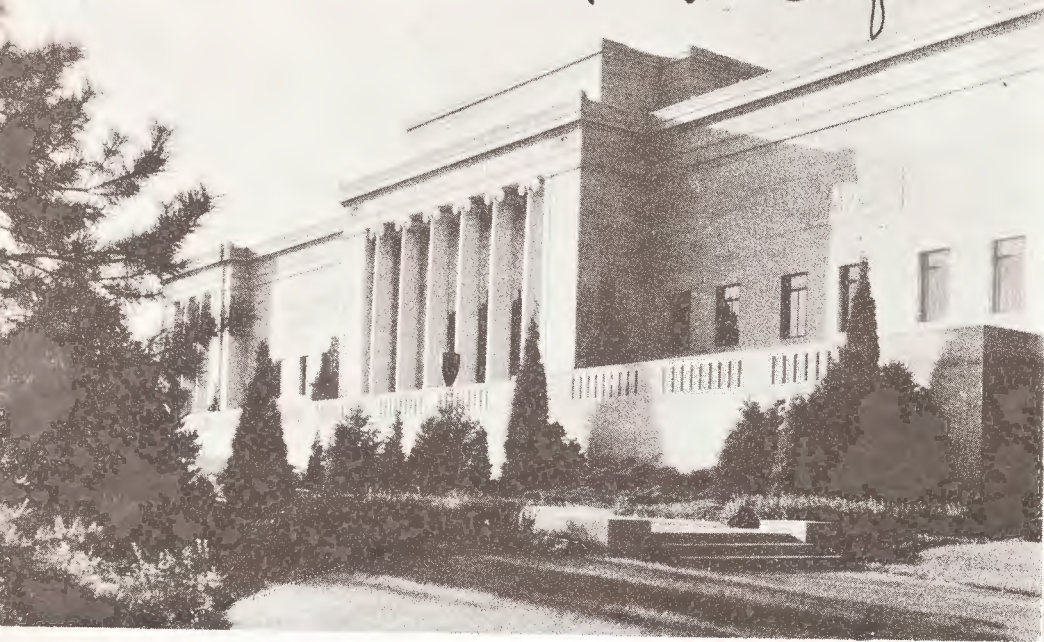


December, 1944
M. L. Clifton



**WILLIAM ROCKHILL
NELSON GALLERY OF
ART and MARY ATKINS
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**

•

GALLERY NEWS

THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON TRUST

THE UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES

J. C. Nichols

H. V. Jones

R. B. Caldwell

THE STAFF

Director (absent on leave)	Paul Gardner
Acting Director	Ethlyne Jackson
Curator of Oriental Art (absent on leave)	Laurence Sickman
Acting Curator of Oriental Art	Lindsay Hughes
Advisor in European Art	Harold W. Parsons
Honorary Advisor in Oriental Art	Langdon Warner
Junior Education	Mary Louise Clifton
Musical Director	Jane Rosenthal
Registrar	Dorothy Thom
Secretary to Director and Librarian	Louise Lebrecht
Cashier and Sales	Mary Maillard
Superintendent	Clarence Simpson
Gallery Assistant	George Herrick

LECTURES AND GALLERY GUIDANCE

Information concerning scheduled lectures for the month will be found in the following pages. Special talks for groups may be arranged by appointment. Services of a guide may be secured at a fee of twenty cents per person, with a minimum fee of one dollar for an hour's tour. Due to limited personnel at the present time, arrangements should be made in advance.

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Information about enrollment for Saturday and Summer Classes may be obtained from the Director of Junior Education. Saturday afternoon activities especially for children are listed in the calendar.

PUBLICATIONS

Catalogues, handbooks, photographs, postcards, etc., are for sale at the Information Desk to the left of the North Entrance. This News Letter is published once each month, September through June, plus a Summer Issue, and is distributed without charge.

See back page for further information.

GALLERY NEWS
December 1944FOURTH ANNUAL MISSOURI EXHIBITION:

For the last four years, the painters and sculptors of Missouri have had an opportunity to display their best in the annual exhibitions sponsored by the City Art Museum of St. Louis, open to artists living in Missouri or within 50 miles of its borders. This year's show is a lively collection of works revealing what our communities and countryside - the snows, the rivers, the gardens, and streets - look like to the artists of our own region. Here, too, in oil, watercolor, engraving and stone are the evidences of Missouri's growth in ability to interpret its life by art.

Almost 600 works were submitted to the judges: Philip R. Adams, Director of the Columbus Gallery of Fine arts, Columbus, Ohio; Donald M. Mattison, Director of the School of the John Herron Art Institute, Indianapolis, Indiana; and Russell A. Plimpton, Director of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. From this number, they chose 76 oils, 32 watercolors, 24 prints and drawings and 13 sculptures, a total of 151 exhibits by 95 artists. The judges awarded the City Art Museum Purchase Prize of \$200.00 to Joseph P. Vorst for his oil "For Thine is the Kingdom" and the \$100.00 Anonymous Purchase Prize to James Green for his watercolor, "Franklin Square".

Included in this exhibition are works by a number of Kansas City artists: Lucille Cowherd and Joseph Fleck, whose paintings were shown last April at the Nelson-Atkins Gallery; Max Morris, Troy Ruddick; E. Hubert Deines, Fred Geary; and Burnett Shryock, head of the Art Department of the University of Kansas City. And Gallery visitors will recognize the work of Karl Mattern, of the Department of Painting of the University of Kansas, who also exhibited here in April.

This Fourth Missouri Annual will come to the Gallery on the tenth of December and will be displayed in our central loan galleries through the

fourth of January.

MASTERPIECE OF THE MONTH - "Madonna and Child Enthroned" by Hans Memling.

Particularly fitting to the Christmas season is the Masterpiece for December, an "Enthroned Madonna and Child" by the great 15th Century Flemish painter, Hans Memling. It brings to the collection the first representation of this early period of Flemish art and is the most important acquisition which the Gallery has made in the field of European painting in a number of years. Works by Memling are rare, only twenty-nine were listed in 1942 as owned in American collections, and the new acquisition ranks in importance with the ones of similar subject in the National Galleries at Washington and London, the Uffizi in Florence and the Capilla Real in Granada.

Hans Memling is believed to have been German by birth (ca. 1430/35) and to have received his early training in Cologne. He apparently served an apprenticeship in Brussels under Roger Van der Weyden, whose influence is strong in his early panels; and then in 1465 removed to Bruges where he lived and worked until his death on August 11, 1494. Bruges was in the last years of her great political and commercial supremacy and her wealth offered patronage to the painters of altarpieces and portraits. The earliest definitely datable work of the master is the triptych painted in 1468 for Sir John Donne, now in the collection of the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth, and stylistic evidence places the Nelson Gallery panel very near it in period.

The subject and composition are typical of the Flemish tradition. The Madonna with her sweet, serene, oval face is gowned in glowing cherry red and holds on her lap the Holy Child who is very humanly engrossed in turning the leaves of a Book of Hours. Above the Madonna float two tiny blue angels who hold a golden crown over her head; while two more angels make music. Between the tall arches

formed by marble columns, may be seen a walled courtyard surrounded by Gothic houses and in the far background an exquisite landscape with the towers of a cathedral rising above the green hills. The whole is enframed in a carved stone arch in grisaille.

The panel measure 28-1/2 x 19-1/2 inches and is painted in tempera and oil glazes. It was formerly in the collection of Prince Pallacincini in Rome and more recently in that of the late Mr. Mortimer L. Schiff of New York. It was acquired for the Gallery from Lt. Commander John M. Schiff through Jacques Seligmann and Company. It is to appear in full color on the cover of the Christmas Issue of "The Art News" and color reproductions in 8x10" size and in the form of Christmas cards will be available at the Gallery sales desk.

CERAMICS GALLERY: Works by famous English potters of the 17th and early 18th Centuries will be featured in the Burnap Collection for the months of December and January. Beginning with the slipware makers such as Thomas and Ralph Toft, William Raylor and Ralph Simpson, who signed their great chargers and plates, the series will continue into the early 18th century with pieces by Elers, Astbury and Whieldon, whose signatures are read in the excellence of their modelling and the individuality of their styles.

GALLERY 24: As an adjunct to the Wednesday night lectures on the ceramics of the world, a special exhibition of pottery and porcelain will open in Gallery 24 the tenth of December. There will be Korean porcelains lent by Mrs. Harry Hussey and Chinese pottery and porcelain from the permanent collection.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES: The unfolding of the history of pottery making in the East and West will continue on December 6th when Miss Jackson will discuss the ceramics of Rome and the medieval wares of Europe. The following week, December 13th, Miss Hughes will take up

the story again in China's most fascinating ceramic period, the T'ang dynasty.

FRIENDS OF ART ANNUAL MEETING: On the evening of Friday, December 1st, the Friends of Art will hold their annual meeting for the selection of a purchase for the contemporary American painting collection. Coffee will be served at 7:30 in the Mezzanine Lounge and the meeting will convene at eight o'clock in Gallery 27 where the paintings have been on exhibition for the past two weeks.

GIFT OF A PAINTING BY CRESPI: An important addition to the field of Italian Baroque painting has been made through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Vincent, who have presented a "Portrait of a Young Man in a Helmet" by Giovanni Battista Crespi (1577-1633). The painting is given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Kirkwood and is now installed in Gallery II.

FRIDAY EVENING GALLERY TALKS: Beginning this month, the informal talks on Friday evening, designed to acquaint visitors to the Gallery with the temporary exhibitions and works of special interest, will begin at 7:30 to allow more time for these discussions before the regular programs in the auditorium.

On December 1st, Miss Hughes will speak in the main Chinese Gallery on the magnificent Chinese stone lions which have been acquired recently. On December 8th, Miss Jackson will discuss the "Madonna and Child Enthroned" by Hans Memling which will be installed in Gallery 14 as the Masterpiece of the Month; and on December 15th, Miss Lebrecht will review the Fourth Annual Missouri Exhibition in Gallery 20.

LOANS TO CLEVELAND: Six objects from the Persian collection were invited to be shown in the exhibition of Islamic Art now being

held at the Cleveland Museum. They included two pieces of pottery and four miniatures. One of the latter, a recent acquisition of this gallery, comes from a dated Materia Medica of 1222 A.D. Our page illustrates a "Stag, Serpent and Simple". It will be illustrated in the catalogue of the Cleveland show, now in preparation.

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART FILM SERIES: The motion pictures sponsored by Fox-Midwest Theatres, Inc. which began last month have met with resounding success. The audience that attended the first of the series was one of the largest in the history of the Gallery and certainly gave indication of the popularity of this series.

Only one film will be shown during December, with three in January, four in February and four in March. The film chosen for Friday evening, December 8th, is THE LAST COMMAND, filmed in 1928, one of the first motion pictures made by Emil Jannings after his arrival in the United States. Planned primarily to exhibit Jannings ability as an actor, it is the tale of a Russian ex-General who becomes a film extra, but recovers his former fiery spirit when he dons his old uniform. The tempo of both acting and direction is deliberate, but the crowd scenes about the railway train and in the Hollywood studio are rendered with great care in the typical Josef Von Sternberg manner. The cast also includes William Powell and Evelyn Brent, names well known to film goers.

The first Mickey Mouse cartoon, filmed in 1928, PLANE CRAZY, will complete the program. Mickey Mouse, like so many other of Walt Disney's little creatures, made his first appearance as a silent figure. Disney worked long to satisfy himself that he had achieved the appropriate nose, ears, whiskers and wardrobe for the mouse. The first cartoon in which Mickey appeared did not meet with any degree of success. At the time, the mouse had not become the

relatively polite figure of later years and even in the first Mickey with sound, STEAM-BOAT WILLIE, which followed PLANE CRAZY, Mickey seems at times to behave more like Donald Duck, who did not appear until much later.

A complete list of the series may be had by writing the Gallery or on request at the Sales Desk.

MUSICAL PROGRAMS: The musical programs planned for December are listed in the Calendar. Of especial interest is the Yuletide dance program to be presented by pupils of Dorothy Perkins on Friday night, December 15th.

DEPARTMENT OF JUNIOR EDUCATION: A collection of dolls of all countries, given to the Gallery by Mrs. H.G. Moore in memory of Mrs. Dora Moore, will be exhibited in the Little Museum during December. The dolls, varying in size from five to seventeen inches, are gaily and beautifully dressed in the authentic costumes of their homelands - Brazil, Africa, Egypt and the nations of the Orient and Europe.

The Saturday afternoon programs for children include a marionette play by the Junior League Children's Theatre and a motion picture. A complete listing may be found in the calendar. There will be no programs on December 23rd or 30th, nor will the children's Saturday morning classes be held on these days.

SERVICE MEN'S LOUNGE: The Gallery wishes to express its gratitude to the women of the Keystone Club of the Trinity Methodist Church who have taken charge of the preparation and serving of the coffee and cookies for our "open house" every Sunday afternoon for Service men and women and their guests.

We cordially invite members of the armed forces to use the Lounge during the week also - to find it a pleasant place to relax during a Gallery visit, to read the current

Magazines, play the piano or enjoy a new addition to their entertainment, a radio-phonograph which has been repaired and albums of records which have been purchased with funds donated by Abbott Laboratories.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Fri.	1	-	7:30	-	Talk, Gallery 23 - Chinese Lions - Miss Hughes
Fri.	1	-	7:30	-	Annual Meeting, Friends of Art
Sat.	2	-	2:00	-	Program - Conservatory of Music, Junior Department
Sun.	3	-	3:00	-	Recorded Music Program
Tues.	5	-	2:00	-	Library - Asiatic Study Club
Wed.	6	-	8:00	-	Lecture - Roman and Medieval Pottery - Miss Jackson
Fri.	8	-	1:00	-	Library - Hypatia Delphians
Fri.	8	-	7:30	-	Talk - Gallery 14 - Memling, Miss Jackson
Fri.	8	-	8:00	-	Cinema - "Last Command"
Sat.	9	-	2:00	-	Marionette Play - "Nurem-burg Stove"
Sun.	10	-	3:30	-	Program to be announced
Tues.	12	-	10:00	-	Library - Book Club
Tues.	12	-	1:00	-	Library - Art Study Club
Wed.	13	-	8:00	-	Lecture - T'ang Pottery - Miss Hughes
Wed.	13	-	7:30	-	Library - K.C. Amateur Movie Makers
Fri.	15	-	7:30	-	Talk - Gallery 20 - Missouri Artists - Miss Lebrecht
Fri.	15	-	8:15	-	Program - Pupils of Miss Perkins
Sat.	16	-	2:00	-	Cinema - "Scrooge"
Sun.	17	-	3:30	-	Christmas Program - To be announced
Tues.	19	-	2:00	-	Library - Asiatic Study Club
Wed.	20	-		-	NO EVENING OPENING
Fri.	22	-	1:00	-	Library - Hypatia Delphians
"	22	-		-	NO EVENING OPENING
Sat.	23	-		-	NO AFTERNOON PROGRAM
Sun.	24	-		-	NO AFTERNOON PROGRAM
Wed.	27	-		-	NO EVENING OPENING
Fri.	29	-		-	NO EVENING OPENING
Sat.	30	-		-	NO AFTERNOON PROGRAM
Sun.	31	-		-	NO AFTERNOON PROGRAM

THE LIBRARY

The Library is open to the public by appointment for study purposes. Volumes are not circulated.

SERVICE LOUNGE

A special lounge is maintained for men and women in the armed forces. Books, magazines, and a piano are available. Light refreshments are served on Sunday afternoon. There is no admission charge at any time for people in uniform.

GIFTS TO THE COLLECTION

The greater part of all museum collections has been built up by individual gifts or bequests. Already hundreds of gifts from all over the United States have widened the scope of the Nelson Collection. The Trustees and Director will be pleased to discuss the acceptability of gifts or bequests with those desiring to contribute to the Collection. Gifts of or contributions for contemporary art are especially solicited and would constitute a most noteworthy memorial as the Nelson Funds can be used for purchase of works of art only when the artist has been dead at least thirty years. The Gallery will be glad to give information about the Society of Friends of Art which has been formed by interested patrons for the purpose of purchasing and presenting to the Collection, works by contemporary artists.

The financial cooperation of everyone for such activities as loan exhibitions, courses of lectures, the Library, musical programs, classes for children in art appreciation or the history of art or the peoples of the world as exemplified in the Gallery collections is an urgent need and the Director will be pleased to furnish detailed information.

The legal entity to which gifts should be made is: University Trustees of the William Rockhill Nelson Trust.

WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

KANSAS CITY 2, MO.

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Open daily from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. except
Sunday and Holidays, 2 p. m. to 6 p. m.
Friday, 1 p. m. to 5 p. m.

Oct. 1 to May 31:

Same as above except

Wed., 10 a. m. to 5 p. m.; 7 p. m. to 10 p. m.

Friday, 1 p. m. to 5 p. m.; 7:30 p. m. to 10 p. m.

Free days: Saturday, Sunday and public holidays
Wednesday and Friday evenings (Oct. 1 to May 31)

Closed:

All Mondays

New Years, July 4th

Thanksgiving and Christmas

Postmaster: If addressee has moved notify
sender on Form 3547, postage for which is
guaranteed.

Sec. 562, P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Kansas City, Mo.
Permit No. 897